

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HAMBUR 00069 221233Z

11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SAJ-01 /031 W

----- 097005

P R 220857Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3656

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMCONSUL BREMEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HAMBURG 0069

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJECT: CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOWER SAXONY

REF: HAMBURG 0036; BONN 00763

1. IN THE WEEK THAT HAS PASSED SINCE THE STUNNING UPSET  
OF THE SPD/FDP COALITION GOVERNMENT IN HANNOVER AND THE  
DRAMATIC ELECTORAL VICTORY OF CDU DEPUTY ERNST ALBRECHT  
AS MINISTER PRESIDENT-ELECT, THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN  
LOWER SAXONY REMAINS FAR FROM RESOLUTION. DURING THE  
21-DAY PERIOD STIPULATED BY THE STATE CONSTITUTION, IN  
WHICH ALBRECHT MUST ATTEMPT TO FORM A NEW CABINET  
ACCEPTABLE TO A PLURALITY OF THE LANDTAG MEMBERSHIP  
BY FEBRUARY 3, CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES ARE BEING  
HURLED BACK AND FORTH BY THE CDU AND THE SPD/FDP OPPO-  
SITION ABOUT THE BEHAVIOR OF THE THREE UNKNOWN COALITION  
DEPUTIES WHO ABSTAINED IN THE JANUARY 15 ELECTION AND  
THE SINGLE COALITION DEPUTY WHO DESERTED THE COALITION  
RANKS TO CAST THE DECISIVE VOTE WHICH ASSURED THE VICTORY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 HAMBUR 00069 221233Z

OF ALBRECHT OVER HELMUT KASIMIER, THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

IN THE PREVIOUS KUBEL GOVERNMENT.

2. ALBRECHT, IN AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO FLATTER HIS UNKNOWN BUT POSSIBLY EPHEMERAL COALITION SUPPORTER, HAS PUBLICALLY DECLARED HIM TO BE A PERSON OF PRINCIPLE WHO HAS RISEN ABOVE SORDID PARTY POLITICS TO VOTE ACCORDING TO THE DICTATES OF HIS CONSCIENCE. ALBRECHT HAS LIKENED THIS INDIVIDUAL TO FORMER PRESIDENT GUSTAV HEINEMANN, WHO RESIGNED AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN THE ADENAUER CABINET IN 1950 IN OPPOSITION TO THE CHANCELLOR'S REARMAMENT POLICY AT THAT TIME AND WHO LEFT THE CDU FOR A FIVE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP THE NEUTRALIST GESAMTDEUTSCHE VOLKSPARTEI (GVP) AND THEN, IN 1957, DRIFTED FINALLY INTO THE RANKS OF THE SPD.

3. WINFRIED HEDERGOTT, THE FDP FLOOR LEADER IN THE LANDTAG, HAS FLUNG BACK THE CHARGE OF SPHISTRY AT ALBRECHT FOR THIS COMPARISON AND HAS, FOR HIS PART, PUBLICLY DENOUNCED THE UNKNOWN DEPUTY AS A "TRAITOR IN OUR MIDST." ALTHOUGH IS IDENTITY MAY NEVER BE KNOWN, THERE ARE TWO LANDTAG DEPUTIES WHOSE DISENCHANTMENT WITH VARIOUS PAST PROVINCIAL COALITION POLICIES MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE LED ONE OF THEM TO SABOTAGE THE KASIMIER ELECTORAL ATTEMPT ON JANUARY 15. BOTH OPPOSED THE TERRITORIAL REFORM BILL OF THE KUBEL GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE GERRY-MANDED THE COUNTY STRUCTURE OF LOWER SAXONY AND REDUCED THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTIES BY CONSOLIDATING THEIR JURISDICTIONS INTO SOMEWHAT LARGER DISTRICTS. SUCH A CONSOLIDATION WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN A LOSS OF JOBS IN VARIOUS COUNTY SEATS. THE BILL, THEREFORE, PROVOKED AN INTENSE AND OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION ON THE PART OF FDP LANDTAG DEPUTY GUSTAV ERNST AND SPD LANDTAG DEPUTY WERNER KAMMANN, WHOSE CONSTITUENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE BILL IF IT HAD BEEN PASSED. ERNST WENT EVEN SO FAR AS TO THREATEN TO WITHHOLD HIS SUPPORT FOR ANY FUTURE SPD CANDIDATE FOR MINISTER PRESIDENT IF THE LANDTAG PASSED THIS BILL. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE, THEREFORE, THAT EITHER OF THESE DEPUTIES WAS THE DEFECTOR WHO TILTED THE ELECTORAL SCALES IN FAVOR OF THE UNEXPECTED VICTORY OF ERNST ALBRECHT. HOWEVER, IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 HAMBUR 00069 221233Z

THE CURRENT MURKY POLITICAL SITUATION IT MIGHT BE SOMEONE EVEN LESS SUSPECT--TO SPECULATE FURTHER ABOUT HIS IDENTITY SEEMS A FAIRLY FRUITLESS EXERCISE. THE MOMENT OF TRUTH, HOWEVER, WILL COME ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 3, WHEN THE DEPUTY IN QUESTION WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO STAND AND BE COUNTED AMONG THE SUPPORTERS OF ALBRECHT IN WHAT, ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION, MUST BE AN OPEN ELECTION FOR OR AGAINST THE ALBRECHT CABINET

BY THE LANDTAG.

4. DURING THE TWO WEEKS AHEAD, ALBRECHT WILL USE EVERY WILE AND ENTICEMENT TO INDUCE INDIVIDUAL SPD AND FDP DEPUTIES TO DESERT THEIR RANKS FOR THE CDU. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WILL BE GREAT PRESSURE ON THE DEMORALIZED SPD/FDP LANDTAG MEMBERSHIP BY THEIR PARTY LEADERS TO RE-CONFORM TO THE FORMER COALITION DISCIPLINE AND TO RESIST THE POLITICAL SIREN CALLS OF THE CDU WHICH MIGHT PROMISE A CABINET POSITION TO AN SPD OR FDP DEPUTY WILLING TO CROSS OVER TO THE CDU AND ASSURE THE ALBRECHT GOVERNMENT OF A STABLE MAJORITY IN THE LANDTAG. THUS FAR, ALL OF ALBRECHT'S ATTEMPTS TO MEET WITH THE STATE SPD AND FDP LEADERSHIP TO DISCUSS, IN THE MOST GERNERAL TERMS, THE PROBLEMS OF THE UNSTABLE POLITICAL SITUATION IN HANNOVER, HAVE FAILED. NEITHER THE SPD NOR THE FDP IS WILLING, AT THE PRESENT IME, TO SEEK A MODUS VEVENDI WITH THE CDU.

5. AT THIS JUNCTURE WE BELIEVE THAT ALBRECHT WILL HOLD OFF PRESENTING HIS CABINET LIST FOR APPROVAL TO THE LANDTAG UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT ON FEBRUARY 3. UNTIL THEN, HE WILL BE MAKING A TREMENDOUS EFFORT, ASSISTED BY CDU BIG GUNS FROM BONN, TO WIN OVER THAT ONE CONVERT HE NEEDS TO FORM A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT. FAILING THIS, ALBRECHT, WE BELIVE, WILL HOPE FOR THE BEST AND, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY, WILL TRY TO LEAD THE STATE WITH A MINORITY GOVERNMENT. IF, HOWEVER, THE CDU FAILS TO WIN A PLURALITY ON FEBRUARY 3 IT WILL THEN BE UP TO THE LANDTAG TO DECIDE WHETHER, WITHIN THE FOLLOWING 14-DAY PERIOD, TO DISBAND AND, AS A CONSEQUENCE, TO CALL FOR STILL ANOTHER ELECTION FOR A NEW MINISTER PRESIDENT.

6. AS THESE DEVELOPMENTS UNFOLD WE WILL BE REPORTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 HAMBUR 00069 221233Z

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE SITUATION AS THEY OCCUR AS WELL AS THE VIEWS OF THE PARTY LEADERS IN HANNOVER ON THE EVE OF THE FEBRUARY 3 ELECTION. BROGAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JAN 1976  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976HAMBUR00069  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760024-0564  
**From:** HAMBURG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760132/aaaabcao.tel  
**Line Count:** 157  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 HAMBURG 36, 76 BONN 763  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOWER SAXONY  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, GE, (ALBRECHT, ERNST)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006